

Requirements for breeding bulls entering Louisiana (interstate movement)

Beginning March 18, 2009, breeding bulls entering Louisiana from any other state must be tested negative for cattle trichomoniasis within 30 days prior to entry **OR** be 24 months of age or younger and certified as a virgin (provided they have not commingled with female cattle). Non-virgin, untested breeding bulls may enter Louisiana for sale to slaughter only.

A breeder's certificate, with the animal's age, identification and breeder's signature, must accompany the virgin breeding bull. The bull's virgin status information, age and ID also must be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection, issued within 30 days prior to entering Louisiana. The bull's age can be determined by breed registry papers with the animal's date of birth, or by examining the animal's teeth. An animal is at least 24 months old if both permanent center incisor teeth are present and in wear.

Breeding bulls must be officially identified prior to entry. Acceptable identification (ID) devices include:

- Brucellosis ear tag
- official 840 radio frequency identification device (RFID)
- official 840 flap or bangle tag
- official individual animal breed registry brand
- official individual animal breed registry tattoo
- official state of origin trich tag

Non-virgin breeding bulls or bulls older than 24 months of age entering Louisiana must be tested negative for trichomoniasis within the 30 days prior to entry on one PCR test, **OR** on three consecutive, official culture tests, each conducted not less than one week apart. During the trichomoniasis testing and prior to shipment to Louisiana, the bulls must have no contact with female cattle. The bulls also must be officially identified.

When entering Louisiana, the tested bulls must be accompanied by a completed trichomoniasis test document **AND** a certificate of veterinary inspection, issued within 30 days prior to movement, on which trichomoniasis test results and ID are also recorded. For all bulls entering Louisiana, applicable tuberculosis and Brucellosis entry requirements must be met, depending on the state of origin.

Samples for trichomoniasis testing must be collected by trichomoniasis-certified accredited veterinarians. Official tests will be run at the owner's expense at the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Payment of sample collection and laboratory costs will be the responsibility of the producer.

Positive bull?

A positive test indicates an infected bull. A confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test may be run at the owner's expense, provided that the owner or herd's certified, accredited veterinarian makes the request to the State Veterinarian within 5 days of the positive test.

Infected bulls will be restricted to movement for slaughter only. The infected bulls are to be moved to slaughter within 30 days of confirmation. There is no effective treatment for this disease.

The remaining bulls in the herd will be isolated from female cattle, until they had at least two (2) consecutive negative PCR tests, each conducted at least seven days apart. When they are confirmed negative for trichomoniasis, the remaining bulls are free to move or to be commingled with cows.

Untested bulls entering Louisiana

Bulls not certified as virgins or older breeding bulls that are untested and entering Louisiana may be sold only to slaughter. Alternatively, they may be identified and moved under hold order and movement permit to a site specified by LDAF, isolated from female cattle, and undergo testing.

For current Louisiana entry requirement information, call 225-925-3980.

Cattle Trichomoniasis: Herd Productivity Thief

Cattle trichomoniasis (trick-o-mun-eye-i-sis) is a venereal disease of cattle caused by the *Tritrichomonas foetus* protozoa that is about the size of a sperm. Infected bulls carry the protozoan on their penis and prepuce, and as the bull ages, the conditions on the surface of the organs become more favorable for the organism to thrive. Cattle trichomoniasis is not a human health issue.

Trichomoniasis, or “trich,” is transmitted to cows through breeding. Cows may abort early in the pregnancy and become temporarily infertile. Cattle producers can lose valuable income from the resulting extended breeding seasons and diminished calf crops.

You can't tell by looking! Infected breeding bulls continue to appear and act normally. Only testing will confirm the presence or absence of the disease-causing protozoa. Once infected, bulls remain infected and capable of spreading infection. No approved treatment or vaccine exists for bulls.

On the other hand, the majority of infected cows will clear the infection, if given 120-150 days of sexual rest. A vaccine also can be administered to cows to help manage the disease. Producers with infected herds should work with their veterinarian to determine the most appropriate measures to employ to eliminate the disease from their cow herds.

More information on the management of the disease can be obtained from the LSU AgCenter @ <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/>

Louisiana's Cattle Trichomoniasis Program

Every state west of the Mississippi River has developed “trich” regulations to address the disease in their states. Many more states are in the process of developing regulations. It is wise to contact the destination state's animal health official before moving cattle.

With great concern for the cattle industry, LDAF developed regulations to stop the introduction and unchecked spread of this protozoal disease. The Louisiana state veterinarian worked closely with producers, market operators, veterinarians, laboratory representatives and educators to gather information and develop a viable, cost-effective program.

Although the primary impact of trichomoniasis is on female cattle, which can spread trich to bulls, Louisiana's trich regulations will focus on breeding bulls, a reservoir for the disease.

Under the program, trichomoniasis is a reportable disease in Louisiana, allowing disease information to be collected by the Office of Animal Health on where and how much infection is in the state.

The emergency proclamation, effective on March 18, 2009, is directed toward breeding bulls entering Louisiana from other states. At a later date, a second phase will be aimed at breeding bulls changing possession in Louisiana.

Louisiana Cattle Trichomoniasis Regulations



For more information, contact:

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Veterinary Health Division
Office of Animal Health
PO Box 1951
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1951

225-925-3980 office
225-237-5555 fax

